(b) in doing so, whether security considerations been taken into account to ensure that this facility is not misused; and

(c) what are the details thereof; and what are the categories of citizens who are being proposed to be exempted from police verification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Cartain categories such as reissue/ renewal cases, minors, if either of their parents are holding valid passports, senior citizens, if any one of their adult children is holding a valid passport, Government servants who submit proper no objection certificate from their respective Offices and holders of Diplomatic and Official passports are exempt from police verification.

As part of further simplification of passport issuing procedures, the currently prevailing procedures to establish the identity of an applicant are also under review.

(b) Yes, Sir. Security considerations shall be fully taken into account.

(c) The matter is still under review and no decision has been taken.

Revival of NAM

316. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA.
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) through closer economic co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As one of the founder members, India countinues to be actively involved in Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which provides a valuable forum for developing countries to articulate their views on a wide range of issues in a collective manner, and to find ways and means to further strengthen their cooperation. With rapid changes in the international environment, there has been a growing realization among the member countries of the NAM to revitalize the Movement, making it a more effective voice of the

developing countries. In this context, it is important to strengthen economic cooperation with NAM and also to pursue interests of its member countries by agreeing on common positions in the global arena.

India is actively engaged within NAM on these issues. The Government utilized the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non Aligned Movement (NAM-C-B) in Malaysia in May, 2006 to actively pursue the objectives of closer economic cooperation with NAM countries and will continue these deliberations at the forthcoming NAM Summit due to be held in Cuba in September, 2006.

The Government has set up a Special Committee to deliberate on how to bring the focus of the NAM on economic and social issues relevant to the developing countries as well as South-South Cooperation. The Special Committee is headed by Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta, Chairman, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

Talks with Nepal

317. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which talks were held between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in June last when the Nepalese Prime Minister visited New Delhi;

(b) the decisions arrived at during the talks;

(c) whether any financial and other assistance has since been given/ promised by India to Nepal, consequent to the talk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal shared their views and assessments of the situation in both the countries. They agreed that the restoration of democracy in Nepal provided a historic opportunity for a qualitative enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also agreed that the success of democracy lay in creating an atmosphere free from violence and coercion, and respect for the rule of law.